

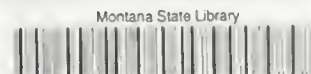


Production

Annual Summary 1999

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Montana's 1999 winter wheat production was estimated at 36.86 million bushels, down 24 percent from 1998 and the lowest production since the severe drought of 1985. Producers harvested 970,000 acres, down 280,000 acres from 1998. The 1999 average yield was 38 bushels per acre, which is one bushel lower than last year's average.

In the fall of 1999 Montana producers seeded 1.5 million acres of winter wheat, 450,000 acres more than the small acreage seeded in 1998.

Montana's 1999 spring wheat production was estimated at 108 million bushels, unchanged from 1998. The 1999 and 1998 productions are tied for the third largest crop on record behind only 1995 and 1997 productions. The seeded acreage was 4.15 million acres, 350,000 acres greater than 1998. Producers harvested 4.0 million acres, 400,000 acres more than a year earlier. Yields averaged 27 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from 1998, in part due to lack of precipitation in many areas of the state.

Durum wheat production for 1999 was estimated at 9.45 million bushels, down 22% from 1998. Harvested acreage was estimated at 350,000, down 80,000 acres from last year. The average yield was 27.0 bushels per acre, down one bushel from 1998. The planted and harvested acreage was lowered by 40,000 acres from the September small grains summary.

Barley planted acreage for 1999 has decreased to 1.3 million acres, 50,000 acres less than 1998. Producers harvested 1.15 million acres, also 50,000 acres less than were harvested for grain in 1998. Yields averaged 50 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year. Production was estimated at 57.5 million bushels, nearly unchanged from last year.

Oats production for 1999 is estimated at 3.22 million bushels, nearly unchanged from 1998. Planted acreage was estimated at 170,000 acres, 30,000 acres higher than last year. Harvested acreage was set at 70,000 acres, up 10,000 from 1998. Yields averaged 46.0 bushels per acre, 8 bushels below last year.

Producers harvested 18,000 acres of corn for grain in 1999, unchanged from last year's estimate. The average yield was 110.0 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from last year. Production decreased 4% from 1998 to 1.98 million bushels. Corn for silage acreage was estimated at 45,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 1998. Yields averaged 20 tons per acre, down one ton from a year ago.

Sugar beet producers harvested an estimated 61,700 acres in 1999, down 700 acres from a year ago. Yields increased 1.2 tons from last year to average 23.8 tons per acre. Total production was estimated at 1.47 million tons, up 4% from the previous year, setting a new production record.

Fall potato production totaled 3.33 million cwt, up 5% from last year. Producers harvested 10,900 acres compared with 10,600 in 1998. Yields increased 5 cwt per acre from a year ago to 305 cwt.

All hay harvested was up 100,000 acres from last year at 2.6 million acres. All hay production was 5.055 million tons, up 1% or 35,000 tons from a year ago. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage was 1.65 million acres, down 50,000 acres from last season. The average yield was 2.2 tons per acre, which is unchanged from last year. Other hay harvested acreage was 950,000, up 150,000 acres from 1998. The average yield was 1.5 tons per acre compared with 1.6 tons per acre last year.

Hay stocks were estimated at 4.45 million tons on December 1, down 3% from last year. Hay growers seeded an estimated 200,000 acres of alfalfa during 1999, 70,000 acres more than last year. New seedings include those mixed with a nurse crop, other forage, or direct seedings.

Dry bean growers produced an estimated 441,000 cwt in 1999, up 91,000 cwt from 1998. Growers harvested 25,500 acres with a yield of 17.3 cwt per acre compared with last year's 16,000 acres harvested with a yield of 21.9 cwt per acre.

Pinto bean production in 1999 is estimated to be 296,000 cwt, which is 12%

above last year's estimate. Harvested acreage, at 13,200, is 10% higher than the previous year. The yield is estimated at 2,240 pounds per acre, 40 pounds more than last year.

Montana's second production estimate for garbanzo beans was 133,000 cwt for 1999, which is 58% higher than last year. Harvested area is estimated at 11,800 acres, up 8,000 from last year. The yield is estimated at 1,130 pounds per acre, down from last year's estimate of 2,210 pounds per acre.

Dry peas production for 1999 is estimated at 663,000 cwt. Planted and harvested acreage is estimated at 50,000 and 39,000 acres, respectively. Average yield is set at 17.0 cwt per acre.

Montana's 1999 production of lentils is estimated at 208,000 cwt. Planted area is estimated at 19,000 acres and harvested acres are set at 16,000 acres. The average yield is estimated to be 13.0 cwt per acre.

Flaxseed production for 1999 is estimated to be 328,000 bushels. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 21,000 and 20,500, respectively. The average yield is set at 16.0 bushels per acre.

Production of mustard seed during 1999 is estimated at 17.85 million pounds. Farmers planted 21,500 acres and harvested 21,000 acres. Yields averaged 850 pounds per acre.

Canola growers planted 60,000 acres in 1999 and harvested 58,000 acres with average yields of 1,200 pounds per acre. Total production is estimated at 69.6 million pounds.

Growers produced an estimated 33.15 million pounds of safflower for 1999, planting 41,000 acres and harvested 39,000 acres with an average yield of 850 pounds per acre.

Montana's 1999 all sunflower production estimate was set at 6.1 million pounds this year. Planted and harvested acreage estimates are 7,800 and 7,100, respectively. The average yield is estimated at 858 pounds per acre.

Montana Annual Crop Summary, 1996-99 1/

Crop	Year	Acreage		Yield Per Acre	Total Production	Market Year Avg. Price	Value of Production	U.S. Production
		Planted	Harvested					
		(000)		Bu.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Winter Wheat	1996	2,150	1,980	31.0	61,380	\$4.24	\$260,251	1,469,618
	1997	1,600	1,450	38.0	55,100	\$3.40	\$187,340	1,845,528
	1998	1,400	1,250	39.0	48,750	\$2.80	\$136,500	1,880,733
	1999	1,050	970	38.0	36,860	\$2.95	\$108,737	1,699,989
Durum Wheat	1996	290	280	25.0	7,000	\$4.65	\$32,550	116,090
	1997	300	290	26.0	7,540	\$5.18	\$39,057	87,783
	1998	450	430	28.0	12,040	\$3.23	\$38,889	138,119
	1999	360	350	27.0	9,450	\$3.50	\$33,075	99,322
Other Spring Wheat	1996	4,200	4,100	26.0	106,600	\$4.22	\$449,852	691,680
	1997	4,250	4,100	29.0	118,900	\$3.58	\$425,662	548,155
	1998	3,800	3,600	30.0	108,000	\$3.13	\$338,040	528,469
	1999	4,150	4,000	27.0	108,000	\$3.25	\$351,000	503,132
All Wheat	1996	6,640	6,360	27.5	174,980	\$4.24	\$742,653	2,277,388
	1997	6,150	5,840	31.1	181,540	\$3.62	\$652,059	2,481,466
	1998	5,650	5,280	32.0	168,790	\$3.03	\$513,429	2,547,321
	1999	5,560	5,320	29.0	154,310	\$3.20	\$492,812	2,302,443
Barley	1996	1,250	1,150	43.0	49,450	\$3.07	\$151,812	392,433
	1997	1,250	1,150	53.0	60,950	\$2.83	\$172,489	359,878
	1998	1,350	1,200	48.0	57,600	\$2.27	\$130,752	352,125
	1999	1,300	1,150	50.0	57,500	\$2.15	\$123,625	281,853
Oats	1996	110	50	40.0	2,000	\$1.91	\$3,820	153,245
	1997	140	70	55.0	3,850	\$1.33	\$5,121	167,246
	1998	140	60	54.0	3,240	\$1.18	\$3,823	165,981
	1999	170	70	46.0	3,220	\$1.05	\$3,381	146,218
Corn for Grain 2/	1996	55	15	137.0	2,055	\$2.60	\$5,343	9,232,557
	1997	60	14	135.0	1,890	\$2.40	\$4,536	9,206,832
	1998	60	18	115.0	2,070	\$1.90	\$3,933	9,758,685
	1999	65	18	110.0	1,980	\$1.65	\$3,267	9,437,337
			(000)	Tons	(000)		(000)	(000)
Corn for Silage	1996	--	39	21.0	819	--	--	86,581
	1997	--	45	21.0	945	--	--	97,192
	1998	--	41	21.0	861	--	--	95,479
	1999	--	45	20.0	900	--	--	96,169
Sugar Beets	1996	57.7	57.5	22.6	1,300	\$48.10	\$62,530	26,680
	1997	59.9	58.3	21.0	1,224	\$40.50	\$49,572	29,886
	1998	64.0	62.4	22.6	1,410	\$36.90	\$52,029	32,499
	1999	61.8	61.7	23.8	1,468			33,319
Alfalfa Hay	1996	--	1,700	2.10	3,570	\$81.00	\$289,170	79,139
	1997	--	1,650	2.40	3,960	\$80.00	\$316,800	78,535
	1998	--	1,700	2.20	3,740	\$73.00	\$273,020	82,310
	1999	--	1,650	2.20	3,630	\$65.50	\$237,765	83,924
Other Hay	1996	--	900	1.50	1,350	\$67.00	\$90,450	70,640
	1997	--	950	1.60	1,520	\$69.00	\$104,880	74,001
	1998	--	800	1.60	1,280	\$62.50	\$80,000	69,470
	1999	--	950	1.50	1,425	\$56.00	\$79,800	75,153
All Hay 3/	1996	--	2,600	1.89	4,920	\$80.00	\$379,620	149,779
	1997	--	2,600	2.11	5,480	\$79.00	\$421,680	152,536
	1998	--	2,500	2.01	5,020	\$72.00	\$353,020	151,780
	1999	--	2,600	1.94	5,055	\$64.50	\$317,565	159,077
Sweet Cherries 4/	1996	--	--	--	630	\$1,420.00	\$893	151,700
	1997	--	--	--	870	\$954.00	\$830	223,490
	1998	--	--	--	1,890	\$1,080.00	\$2,041	206,610
	1999	--	--	--				
			(000)	Cwt.	(000)		(000)	(000)
Fall Potatoes	1996	10.4	10.2	315	3,213	\$6.60	\$21,206	499,254
	1997	10.4	10.4	320	3,328	\$7.05	\$23,462	467,091
	1998	10.6	10.6	300	3,180	\$7.95	\$25,281	475,771
	1999	11.0	10.9	305	3,325	\$8.60	\$28,595	478,398
All Dry Beans	1996	10.5	10.3	22.8	235	\$24.50	\$5,758	27,912
	1997	12.2	11.7	22.0	257	\$19.40	\$4,986	29,370
	1998	16.6	16.0	21.9	266	\$15.60	\$5,460	30,418
	1999	26.5	25.5	17.3	441	\$19.20	\$8,467	33,230
Pinto Beans	1998	12.2	12.0	22.0	264	--	--	14,511
	1999	13.9	13.2	22.4	296	--	--	10,839
Garbanzo Beans	1998	4.0	3.8	22.1	84	--	--	418
	1999	12.1	11.8	11.3	133	--	--	740
Lentils	1999	19.0	16.0	13.0	208			2,387
Dry Peas	1999	50.0	39.0	17.0	663			5,030

1/ All estimates for 1999 are preliminary and season average price and value of production not available. 2/ Planted for all purposes. 3/ Price of baled hay. 4/ Utilized production in actual tons. 5/ U.S. totals are for all potatoes. * Record low. **Record high